

WINTER 2014

Who Can Be Listed in a Program Profile?

When programs want to earn more than 2 Stars, they need to fill out a Registry Program Profile (www.the-registry.org). That information is transferred to YoungStar every night to help determine the rating.

For family programs, the person who is doing the caregiving of the children should be listed as both the Director and the Teacher in the classroom.

For group and school-age programs, if a person is listed as a Lead Teacher or Group Leader, they must be the person that works the greatest number of hours per day in the classroom. If two people work equal hours, either can be listed as the Lead Teacher.

The person listed as the Director or Site Supervisor should be the person who is responsible for the following tasks:

- * Supervision of planning and implementation of programming for children
- * Supervision of staff
- * Staff meetings and orientation
- * Continuing education of staff

In some limited cases, a person may be listed as both a teacher and a director. For more information on this dual-role option see the Education and Training box on this webpage: http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/provider_tips.htm

Licensed Day Camps Invited to Participate in YoungStar

Beginning March 1, 2014, Licensed Day Camps are invited to participate in YoungStar. Licensed Day Camps that receive Wisconsin Shares child care subsidy payments are required to apply for participation by June 1, 2014. Tiered reimbursement payments to Licensed day camps will begin July 1, 2014.

If a Licensed Day Camp that is receiving Wisconsin Shares does not have a YoungStar Contract submitted by June 1, 2014, the Wisconsin Shares authorizations will be ended. It is important to note that Licensed Day Camps do not have to be rated before June 1, 2014, they just need to have a YoungStar Contract submitted by that date. All other Licensed Day Camps that do not receive Wisconsin Shares can voluntarily participate. YoungStar staff will assist Wisconsin Licensed Day Camps to improve their quality which will lead to improved outcomes for children.

Rating Day Camps

Licensed Day Camps that have children enrolled 14 weeks or fewer per year will be rated under a new rating track specifically for these day camp programs that have a limited timeframe of service. Licensed Day Camps that have children enrolled for more than 14 weeks per year will be rated under the existing school-age rating track. At the end of January, YoungStar Contracts and instructions on completing

and returning the Contracts to local YoungStar offices were sent to all Licensed Day Camps that operated in 2013. The Quality Indicator Point Detail and Evaluation Criteria information is available on the YoungStar website at: <http://dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/providers.htm> under the Licensed Day Camps heading.

Because the operating timeframe for some Licensed Day Camps is 14 weeks or fewer, a Formal Rating with Observation cannot be completed for these programs in the day camp rating track. Programs going through YoungStar rating in the day camp track can earn up to 3 Stars.

If a Licensed Day Camp wants to earn a star level higher than 3 Stars, they would need to be accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA). The ACA's standards are linked to quality day camp programming similar to the standards required in YoungStar. Licensed day camps are encouraged to contact the local YoungStar office for more information.



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Successful Formal Rating with Observation Tips

The tips below will help programs prepare for a Formal Rating with Observation. A Formal Rating with Observation is used when programs qualify to earn 4 or 5 Stars. Contact your local YoungStar office with questions.

- * Become familiar with the evaluation criteria document that will be used for your rating. Determine which points you are attempting to earn (required and optional).
- * Use resources on the YoungStar website to confirm that your policies meet the requirements laid out in the evaluation criteria **completely**. Ask your Technical Consultant (TC) for help if you are unsure about any requirement.
- * Requirements related to child outcomes (curriculum alignment, portfolios, intentional planning) must be met for **every child** to receive credit.
- * Documentation must be available for review the first day the formal rater visits.
- * Collect required documentation. Items should be gathered together in one place. It helps to highlight required written policies and note page numbers where information is located. Sometimes it is helpful to create a YoungStar binder to keep all information in one place, ready for when the rating occurs.
- * Prepare for classroom observations by reviewing the appropriate Environment Rating Scales (ERS), notes for clarifications, and Wisconsin Interpretations. Pay close attention to definitions of “much of the day” and “substantial portion of the day.”
- * Consider asking your TC to do a “mock observation” if you have not yet had an ERS observation in your program.
- * Remember that the Formal Rater will not carry on conversations with staff and/or children during the observation. They may ask questions before or after the observation for clarification.

New YoungStar Listserv Available Now

To receive communications and information specific to the YoungStar Quality Rating and Improvement System go to <http://dcf.wi.gov/ysemail> and subscribe to the YoungStar Information and updates email subscription listserv. This list is for child care programs and early childhood education professionals. This listserv is for the dissemination of information only.

The more you know...

Formal Rating with Observation

Are you thinking about going through a Formal Rating with Observation to earn 4 or 5 Stars? Then don't forget to check out the Clarifications and Wisconsin Interpretations and for each of the Environment Rating Scales (ERS) that will be used in your program during a Formal Rating.

ERS Clarifications

Each year, the authors of the ERS, Thelma Harms and Debby Cryer, develop a set of clarifications to help in the application of the Environment Rating Scales. The Clarifications are updated each year and become effective each January. These notes are developed by to improve the inter-rater agreement among all scale users. These notes do not change any of the requirements in the printed scales, they merely add additional information to help in accurate scoring.

Wisconsin Interpretations

The Wisconsin Interpretations were developed for some indicators in the ERS when licensing or certification regulations are determined to be in contrast to the ERS at the 1 (inadequate), 3 (minimal) or 5 (good) levels of the indicators for the specific items of the ERS or if the indicator needs further explanation.

Both of these items can be found on the YoungStar website at:

dcf.wisconsin.gov/youngstar/ers.htm

